



# ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.ichabodcrane.org](http://www.ichabodcrane.org)

NOVEMBER 2025



## CAPITAL PROJECT

# VOTE

Tuesday  
December 16, 2025  
8 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Ichabod Crane  
High School Gymnasium

## CAPITAL PROJECT DECEMBER 2025

# Building on Progress, Investing in the Future

Ichabod Crane CSD voters will soon have the opportunity to decide on a Capital Project designed to modernize aging infrastructure, support future-ready learning and create spaces that promote student well-being. **The community vote is set for December 16, 2025.**

In this Fall Newsletter, we highlight what the project aims to achieve and its estimated financial impact – as part of our ongoing effort to share clear information and help the community make an informed decision at the polls.

A capital project is similar to a home renovation – an investment to maintain and improve our schools over time. Just as homes need repairs and upgrades, school buildings require maintenance to remain safe, efficient and aligned with educational goals. **These large-scale improvements are funded separately from the annual operating budget and allow districts to receive New York State Building Aid for eligible expenses.**

For this project, Ichabod Crane is eligible for 73.5% reimbursement on all eligible expenses, helping to reduce the local cost while addressing facility needs. This means that for every dollar spent, we will receive 73.5 cents back from New York State.

At its October meeting, the Board of Education unanimously approved two propositions for the Dec. 16 referendum. Together, they focus on three key goals: upgrading infrastructure, enhancing instruction and improving student wellness.

**Proposition 1 includes \$31,281,651 for all updates at the Primary, Middle and High Schools and bus garage and the replacement of the Running Track and Main Playfield with natural grass.**

**Proposition 2 ONLY provides the additional \$2,018,270 needed to replace the Main Playfield with synthetic turf instead of natural grass. Proposition 2 can only pass if Proposition 1 passes.**

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Primary School:** Air conditioning in all classrooms, kitchen renovation and playground improvements
- **Middle School:** New Engineering & Technology Lab, renovated Art, Music and World Language rooms, upgraded counseling and main offices, renovated locker rooms and new adaptive, multipurpose Physical Education space
- **High School:** Kitchen renovation and window/door replacements
- **Bus Garage:** Exterior repairs, bathroom updates and new bus lifts

The estimated tax impact for a home with a full value of \$300,000 from 2028 to 2036 is as follows:

- **Proposition 1:** Additional \$30-\$42/year (\$2.50-\$3.50/month)
- **Proposition 2:** Additional \$6-\$8/year (\$0.50-\$0.67/month)
- **Combined Total:** Additional \$36-50/year (\$3.00-\$4.17/month)

## VOTERS TO DECIDE ON TWO PROPOSITIONS:

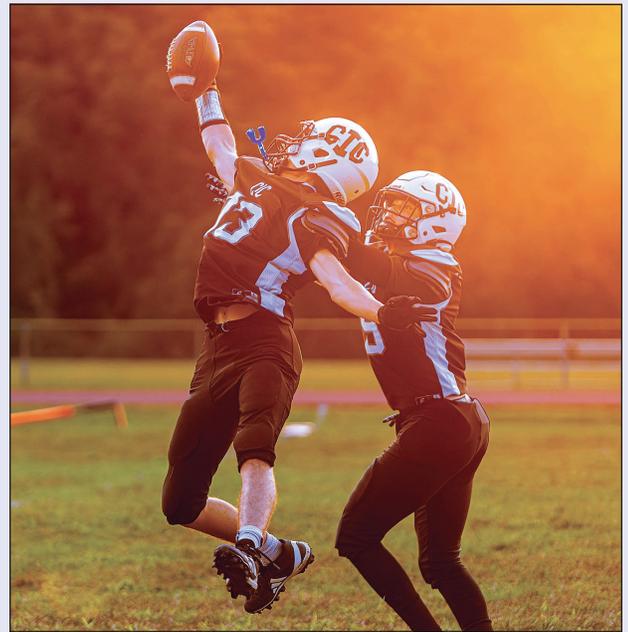
**Proposition 1: \$31,281,651** – Funds upgrades across all schools and bus garage and replaces Running Track and Main Playfield with natural grass

**Proposition 2: \$2,018,270** – Provides ONLY the additional funds to replace the Main Playfield with synthetic turf



SCAN ME

For more details, visit the Capital Project page: <https://www.ichabodcrane.org/district/capital-projects/> or scan the QR code.



## ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY HUB: New Playfield & PE Spaces

A central part of the Capital Project is enhancing our Physical Education and Athletic facilities, including the replacement of the Main Playfield and Running Track, both of which have reached the end of their lifespans.

The Main Playfield and Running Track serve many purposes, including sites for Physical Education instruction and athletic competitions. It is also a place where we come together to celebrate milestones such as High School Graduation, Middle School Moving Up, Homecoming, Flag Day and the Unity Parade. Our Marching Band also performs at athletic games and school events that bring our Rider community together.

Our Main Playfield and Running Track are located in the center of our campus and both need to be replaced. For the Main Playfield, we have two options – natural grass and synthetic turf. The district is proposing to replace the field and track to ensure these important activities continue on a safe, accessible and high-quality surface for years to come.

Two options will appear on the December 16 ballot:

- **Proposition 1** includes replacing the Running Track and the Main Playfield with natural grass.
- **Proposition 2** provides ONLY the additional funding to replace it with synthetic turf (Proposition 2 can only pass if Proposition 1 passes).

### Natural Grass vs. Synthetic Turf – Quick Facts

- **Installation Costs:** \$927,000 (grass) vs. \$2.98 million (turf)
- **Annual Maintenance:** \$55,000 (grass) vs. \$2,700 (turf)
- **Play Time:** 10 hours/week (grass) vs. 40 hours/week (turf)

Installation costs are eligible for the 73.5% in New York State Building Aid, while annual maintenance costs do not receive any State Building Aid. Over a 15-year period, synthetic turf is more cost-effective



than natural grass at Ichabod Crane. When factoring in State Building Aid at 73.5% for installation and ongoing annual maintenance, which is roughly 20 times higher for natural grass, synthetic turf proves to be the more economical option.

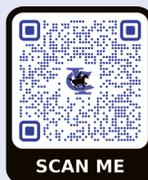
A synthetic turf field would also allow the district to more than double the recommended amount of time the field can be used, expanding opportunities for Physical Education classes and increasing access for community groups and local youth organizations. While natural grass fields are recommended for about 10 hours of use per week, the district's current Main Playfield is used for roughly 20 hours weekly. With synthetic turf, that usage could increase to approximately 40 hours per week.

**Additionally, through Proposition 1, the district is proposing an overhaul of a portion of the Physical Education space at the Middle School, building on the improvements made during the 2018 Capital Project, which included the creation of our premier gymnasium at the Middle School.**

**The plan includes creating brand-new locker rooms at the Middle School – spaces that play a role in supporting student well-being, social-emotional learning and physical fitness. The locker rooms, original to the building, are now in serious disrepair.**

**Other upgrades include providing direct access to the exterior, creating a new large lobby and vestibule, a new concession stand and increased athletic and PE storage.**

The reconfiguration of this space also allows us to create a **new dedicated adaptive PE space**, a multipurpose room for small and large PE instruction, community usage and Adult Education classes.



## ICCSA STEAMS AHEAD:

# Expanding Future-Ready Learning District-Wide

As the Ichabod Crane community looks ahead to the Capital Project vote on December 16, our focus remains on providing students with future-ready learning opportunities, particularly in **STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics**.

**Proposition 1 of the Capital Project calls for a complete renovation of the Middle School Engineering Technology Lab**, a link between the Primary and High School STEAM programs.

Plans include dedicated spaces for wood and metal fabrication, computer-assisted design, new 3D printers, CNC engravers and expanded storage. Located in the heart of the Middle School, the updated lab will serve as a hub for hands-on, collaborative learning and complement proposed renovations to the Art, Music and World Language suites under the Capital Project.

The STEAM approach to teaching and learning blends creativity, problem-solving and hands-on instruction. Unlike traditional methods that teach subjects in isolation, STEAM connects them through project-based learning.

**STEAM initiatives at Ichabod Crane have expanded significantly over the years.**

**The 2018 Capital Project established the High School STEAM Wing**, a dedicated suite of spaces that has allowed us to expand course offerings,



including Metals, Woodworking, Computer-Assisted Design and Robotics. The wing has also fostered collaborations beyond the district, including a partnership with Columbia-Greene Community College, enabling students to take Automotive Repair (AU 128) on-site at Ichabod Crane High School.

**This year, STEAM opportunities expanded to the Primary School with a dedicated STEAM room led by Instructional Coach Kara DiMarino.** A former chemist and Primary School teacher, Mrs. DiMarino now helps guide teachers through the use of innovative resources for math and science instruction, such as the STEAM room.

The space cultivates the district's **Portrait of a Rider** and the **New York State Portrait of a Graduate** characteristics, including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, lifelong learning and community contribution.

Ichabod's youngest learners engage in hands-on, curiosity-driven experiences, using tools like Osmo, a tablet-based interactive learning platform, to create complex shapes with tangrams. Screen-free activities are also a key part of the program, from practicing math facts with Jenga blocks to constructing imaginative structures in our "Legoland" area.

**These experiences emphasize the four Cs of STEAM – collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity – setting students on a path to become confident, innovative learners!**



## SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD THROUGH THOUGHTFUL SPACES

Educating the whole child at Ichabod Crane means focusing on academic and social and emotional well-being. **The Capital Project proposal includes updates to several learning and support spaces throughout the district to align with this approach.**

**One major improvement is the installation of air conditioning in every Primary School classroom.** Our pre-K-3 building is the warmest in the district and serves the youngest students, who typically remain in the same classroom for most of the school day. Adding air conditioning would help maintain consistent, comfortable learning conditions.

**Another important focus of this project is enhancing student support spaces.** Across all grade levels, Ichabod Crane has built a strong network of support professionals – counselors, psychologists and social workers

– who play an essential role in students' academic success and emotional health.

At the Middle School, the Main Office and Counseling Suites are scheduled for renovation to address issues such as limited space, inadequate soundproofing and lack of natural light. The redesigned layout would include appropriately sized offices and meeting areas to improve functionality, privacy and accessibility for students and staff.

These spaces are used for a variety of purposes, including individual and group counseling, therapy sessions, family meetings and academic planning. The updates are designed to support these daily activities and improve the overall efficiency and comfort of the areas where they take place.





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**NON-DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:** The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Compliance Officer, Lucas Christensen, and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Peg Warner, at 758-7575, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184. A copy of the "In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)" is available in the Superintendent's Office.

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

# CAPITAL PROJECT VOTING INFORMATION

Vote: **Tuesday, December 16, 2025**  
In-Person: **8 a.m. – 9 p.m.**  
Location: **High School Gymnasium**



## ABSENTEE AND EARLY MAIL VOTING

Applications available at:

- [www.ichabodcrane.org/voting-and-election-information](http://www.ichabodcrane.org/voting-and-election-information)
- Contact District Clerk Mindy Potts: 518-758-7575 ext. 3001 | [mpotts@ichabodcrane.org](mailto:mpotts@ichabodcrane.org)

**Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk:**

- At least 7 days before the Capital Project Vote if the ballot will be mailed to the voter
- By Monday, December 15, 2025 if the application is delivered in person to the District Clerk at Ichabod Crane's Central Office

**Absentee and early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.**

For full details on the Capital Project, visit:

<https://www.ichabodcrane.org/district/capital-projects/> or scan the QR code.

